



# NEWSWATCH

Vol. 2021-2022 No. 7

March 2022

**Next meeting: Wednesday, April 13, at 2 p.m.  
EITHER Peterson Room, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass, OR Zoom**

## **Perry Metz to discuss changes in media**

At the April 13 meeting of the IURA, **Perry Metz** will address, in his words, “the changing ways we get our news, the decline of newspapers, the rise of misinformation as a sport, and what we might do about it.” His chosen title: “American news media are dying ... and it’s your fault!” Whether the meeting will be in-person, Zoom, or a hybrid will be determined by conditions at the time. The decision will be made about a week before, and members will be notified by email and on the IURA website.



Perry retired in October 2019 after 16 years as general manager of WFIU and WTIU. During that time, WFIU added a second signal, WTIU converted to digital and HD broadcasting, and Perry created the first multi-

platform newsroom in public media. He also served eight years as the chair of the statewide consortium of Indiana public broadcasting stations.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of IU, Perry earned a bachelor’s degree with a double major in political science and journalism. After earning a master’s in communications management, he went on to study at the Poynter Institute. He also worked on Capitol Hill as a Sears Congressional Fellow in the office of then-Sen. Joe Biden.

His long career in IU administration included stints as director of campus relations and associate vice president of the Bloomington campus. He currently serves as the alumni representative on the IMU board of directors.

## **Joint meeting to feature new IU president**

On Wednesday, May 4, the Emeriti House and the IURA will host a joint meeting to hear from IU President **Pamela Whitten**. The meeting will be at Showalter House (Peterson Room) at the IU Foundation at 2 p.m. An opportunity for questions and comments will be provided after the presentation.



President Whitten assumed her position as IU’s 19th president on July 1, 2021. Previously she served as president of Kennesaw State University and as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Georgia.

No stranger to the Big Ten, President Whitten joined the faculty of the department of

telecommunication at Michigan State University in 1998. After serving as assistant and associate dean, she became dean of MSU's College of Communication Arts and Sciences in 2009. She is internationally known for her expertise in telemedicine and was elected a fellow of the American Telemedicine Association in 2011.

She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas, her master's at the University of Kentucky, and her bachelor's degree from Tulane University.

### Tony Mescher joins IURA board



In February the IURA board of directors selected **Tony Mescher** to complete the term of **Geoff Conroy**, who died in December. Tony's term lasts through May 2024.

A professor emeritus of anatomy and cell biology,

Tony retired in 2014. A native of Celina, Ohio, he earned his master's and Ph.D. at Ohio State. After working as a postdoctoral fellow at the Salk Institute and a professor at George Washington University, he joined the faculty of the IU School of Medicine-Bloomington in 1981. He has received numerous teaching awards.

Tony is on the program committee of the Emeriti House. He served on the board of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank and as a trustee at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. He has two sons and a new granddaughter. Trina, his wife of 45 years, died last year.

### Annual meeting to convene in April

For the first time since the pandemic started, the annual meeting will be held as part of the April gathering of the IURA. On April 13 retirees will elect three people to three-year terms on the board of directors.

Two directors whose terms expire this year have agreed to be candidates for a second term: **Anita Douglas**, IURA treasurer, and **Joyce Krothe**, IURA vice president. **Jim Grandorf**, who has headed up the IURA's United Way effort, has chosen not to seek re-election.

Anita, who will report at the annual meeting on the IURA's fiscal condition, retired in 2016 as assistant director of administrative services for the IMU. Joyce retired, also in 2016, as assistant dean of the School of Nursing, with administrative responsibility for the Bloomington campus.

The nominating committee has nominated **Beau (Elizabeth) Vallance** for a new three-year term. Beau retired in 2012 as a professor of art education. Nominations from the floor will be accepted, with the consent of the nominee(s).

Last year's annual meeting was in May, and the year before the election was conducted by email.

### Fred Cate offers cybersecurity tips

An unequal arms race is raging in the cybersecurity world, and the odds are against the good guys. That was the message **Fred Cate**, IU's vice president for research, brought to retirees February 9. Fred provided retirees with some tools they can use to protect themselves.

As defenses get better, Fred said, attackers improve their offense. All data systems are under attack. Credit and debit card fraud has increased almost 200 percent over the last two years. Access credential theft, which steals your login information, is escalating.

Ransomware is the fastest growing form of attack. The goal of ransomware isn't to steal your information but to keep you from being able to access it. Attacks on infrastructure have compromised systems and introduced malware, even at Intel and AMD, the world's two largest manufacturers of silicon chips.

Hackers have become increasingly ingenious, to the point that former FBI director Robert

Mueller declared, “There are only two kinds of companies: those that have been hacked and those that will be hacked.” And attackers are increasingly sharing, buying, or renting strategies off the Internet.

If cybersecurity is a myth and banks and the National Security Council can’t protect themselves, what chance is there for the individual consumer? Fred offered several tips.

**Create better passwords.** Don’t use any word that is in the dictionary as a stand-alone password. Choose a password that is meaningful to you but no one else. Embed numerals and special characters in your password. For example, substitute the numeral “one” for the letter “ell.” Require password verification on your cell phone and computer. Don’t share your password with anyone. Don’t use the same password for multiple sites.

**Use multifactor authentication whenever possible.** Yes, it is more time-consuming, but it gives you a massive amount of protection.

**Keep software updates current on all your devices.** Updates come with patches to fix identified security vulnerabilities. Let your computer and phone update automatically.

**Exercise good judgment.** Don’t respond to phone, email, or in-person solicitations unless you can verify the identity of the individual or company. Never click on a link sent you by someone you don’t know. Don’t leave your laptop on the backseat of your car.

Remember that **you are not required to connect everything** that can be connected to the Internet. Ask yourself, “Do I really need the humidifier to connect to my cell phone?” Don’t accept defaults automatically.

**Check your bank and credit card statements regularly.** Credit card companies are required to hold you harmless for unauthorized charges, but only if you question the charge less than 60 days after it is made. Activate alerts so you are

notified of charges above a given amount. “The sooner you discover and report, the greater the likelihood you will get your money back,” Fred said.

If you don’t need instant credit, consider **initiating a free credit freeze**. A freeze blocks an identity thief from opening a new account or obtaining credit in your name. It’s necessary, however, to freeze all three credit reports: Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union. Details at <https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/consumer-protection-division/id-theft-prevention/protect/credit-freeze/>

Retirees peppered Fred with questions. What about websites that ask you to connect using Facebook or PayPal? Fred said he happily uses PayPal but is wary of Facebook, which “vacuums up everything and makes you more vulnerable to fraud because the attacker knows more about you.”

He recommends maintaining good backups and creating resilience in the event technology fails. Don’t respond to phishing emails or give login information to questionable sites. Asked about email services, Fred recommended Gmail rather than Yahoo, where more than 3 billion records have been breached.

“Eternal vigilance is not only the price of liberty,” Fred said. “It’s also the price of security. Just because you can’t protect yourself from Chinese or Russian thieves doesn’t mean you can’t prevent run-of-the-mill criminals.”

Past IURA president **Doug Porter** introduced the speaker. A Zoom recording of the meeting can be accessed from the Events page of the IURA website, <https://iura.indiana.edu>.

*Editor’s note: On March 3 UITS informed Exchange Online users that two new security features will be activated on March 15. Safe Links helps protect users from malicious links used in phishing and other attacks. Safe Attachments provides an additional layer of protection for email attachments.*

**IU Retirees Association**  
**P.O. Box 8393**  
**Bloomington, IN 47407-8393**

**Nonprofit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage PAID**  
**Bloomington, IN**  
**Permit No. 2**

## Harpist to play at luncheon in May

Plans are underway for a festive luncheon on May 25 at the Peterson Room at the IU Foundation. The April *Newswatch* will include details and registration information.

The program will feature a harpist from the Jacobs School of Music. It will spotlight the 12th USA International Harp Competition, to be held from June 29 to July 9 in Bloomington.



Since the Jacobs School's **Susann McDonald** (at left) founded the triennial competition in 1989, more than 400 young harpists from 31 countries have competed. Mélanie

Laurent, the 2019 Gold Medalist, is performing in concerts in Bloomington, Indianapolis, and Chicago in July. Her Bloomington concert will be July 3.

## Host families for harpists being sought

Hosts are needed to house the 40-some participants in the USA International Harp

Competition. Contestants are carefully matched with hosts, taking into consideration such factors as whether they are smokers or have any food allergies. Many hosts have formed lifelong friendships with "their" contestant.

IURA editor **Judy Schroeder** was a host some years back. "It was both fun and enlightening," she says. "This is like the Olympics for harpists. My husband and I learned what dedication it takes to compete at the highest level. We learned the logistics of picking the right harp, the suspense of waiting to find out whether you've moved on to the next level. And we heard more harp music in one week than in all the years of our lives before that time."

If you would like to volunteer to be a host or to help in other ways, please email [harpcomp@indiana.edu](mailto:harpcomp@indiana.edu) or call (812) 856-5715. For more information, see <https://usaihc.org>.

## About this newsletter

*Newswatch* is published eight times each year (10 in 2021). Send address corrections to database manager **Doris Wittenburg** at [dwittenb@indiana.edu](mailto:dwittenb@indiana.edu). For corrections of newsletter contents, please contact *Newswatch* editor **Judy Schroeder**, [jschroed@indiana.edu](mailto:jschroed@indiana.edu).